

Attorney Docket No.: 018765-9001**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 have been amended, and new claims 17, 18, and 19 have been added. In addition, the specification and abstract have been amended. No new matter has been added by any of these amendments.

The specification has been amended to provide minor adjustments to the wording of the disclosure in order to improve clarity. None of the amendments made to the specification alter the substantive nature of the disclosure.

The abstract has been amended to delete reference numbers relating to the drawings.

New Claims 17, 18, and contain limitations that were disclosed in the original specification and in original Claims 11 and 16.

Claims 1-16 have been amended to delete the reference numbers. In addition, Claims 1-16 have been amended to delete the phrase "characterized in that" and replace it with, in the case of Claim 1, the phrase "comprising," and, in the case of the remaining claims, the phrase "wherein." Further, the multiple dependent claims, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 16 have been amended to depend from a single claim, or, in the case of Claim 11, rewritten in independent form.

Claim Objection

The Examiner has objected to Claim 5 under 37 CFR § 1.175(c) as being a multiple dependent claim that depends from other multiple dependent claims, specifically, Claims 3 and 4. Accordingly, the Examiner has stated that he has not treated Claims 5-19 on the merits.

Prior to this amendment, the Pending Application contained Claims 1-16. It is therefore assumed that the Examiner has not treated Claims 5-16 on the merits. However, verification of or clarification on this matter is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4, and 5 have been amended to depend only from Claim 1, so that Claim 5 as amended is in proper form. It is therefore, respectfully requested that the objection to Claim 5 be withdrawn. It is further respectfully requested that amended Claims 5-16 and new Claims 17-19 be treated on the merits.

Attorney Docket No.: 018765-9001**Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by US Patent 6,674,966 ("Koonen").

Claim 1 has been amended to more distinctly point out the subject matter of the claim. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly specify that each of the remote units receives the main signal and selects, from the main signal, the at least one secondary signal intended for that particular remote unit according to the present parameter value. As indicated in Claim 1, the main signal contains a plurality of secondary signals, each identified by a preset parameter value. Therefore, each remote unit receives all the secondary signals and identifies the secondary signal or signals intended for it as a function of the preset parameter value identifying each secondary signal. Claim 1 as amended is supported by original Claim 1 and by the specification as filed. (see specification p. 5, lines 10-13; specification, p. 6, lines 9-12; and Figure 1).

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference." MPEP §2131; Verdegall Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

The Examiner has failed to set forth a prima facie case of anticipation because he has failed to show that Koonen teaches all the limitations of Claims 1-4. Koonen fails to teach a plurality of remote units, each of which receive a main signal including a plurality of secondary signals, where each of the remote units are designed to select and process the particular secondary signal intended for that particular remote unit.

The system described in Koonen (referring to Figure 5 in Koonen) includes a flexible wavelength router 73 that receives a signal from a base station controller 14 and divides the signal into multiple signals (wavelength channels) and routes them to the optical network units or ONUs (remote units) 74a-74n. The flexible wavelength router 73 includes a demultiplexer 80 (see Figure 6) that separates the wavelength channels contained in the signal received from the base station controller 14, and an optical switch matrix 82 that guides the wavelength channels to each remote unit (optical network unit 76a-76n) (see specification, column 6, lines 41-44; and

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column 7, lines 21-23). Therefore, each ONU (remote unit) 74a-74n only receives a single dedicated signal and not a "main" signal including two or more secondary signals. Thus, there is no teaching in Koonen that each ONU selects from the signal they receive (a main signal), a particular portion intended specifically for that ONU (a secondary signal). In fact, there is no need for the ONUs to make such a selection, because the particular portions are selected and separated from the main signal and routed to the ONUs by the flexible wavelength router 73.

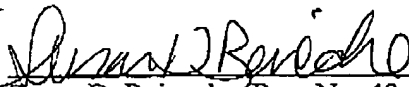
It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-4 be withdrawn.

Attorney Docket No.: 018765-9001**Conclusion**

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth in this Amendment and Response to Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that the Pending Application, including Claims 1-19, is in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered and the Pending Application be promptly allowed.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such contact would in any way facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan D. Reinecke, Reg. No. 40,198

Lisa C. Childs, Reg. No. 39,937

Michael Best & Friedrich LLP

401 North Michigan Avenue

Suite 1900

Chicago, Illinois 60611

(312) 222-0800

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